

# **Louisville Metro Planning Commission**

## **2013 Annual Report**



**January 16, 2014**

Presented by Emily Liu, AICP  
Director of Planning & Design Services  
Department of Codes & Regulations

## Introduction

### Louisville Metro Planning Commission

The purpose of the Planning Commission shall be to direct the economic growth and physical development of Jefferson County and the communities therein, and to guide such development in such a manner as to assure the prosperity, health, safety, morals and general welfare of the county and its communities.

### 2013 Planning Commissioners

Donnie Blake, Chairman  
Jeff Brown  
Vanessa Burns – Designee/Jeff Brown  
Vince Jarboe  
Robert Kirchdorfer  
Tawana Hughes

David Proffitt, Vice Chairman  
Greg Scheer  
David Tomes  
Clifford Turner  
Paula Wahl - Retired  
Chip White

### 2013 Planning Commission Committees

#### Land Development & Transportation

Donnie Blake, Chair  
Vince Jarboe, Vice Chair  
Clifford Turner  
Tawana Hughes  
Jeff Brown

#### Development Review Committee

David Tomes, Chair  
Chip White, Vice Chair  
Robert Kirchdorfer  
Greg Scheer  
Jeff Brown

#### Site Inspection Committee

All Commissioners – rotating assignment

#### Planning Committee

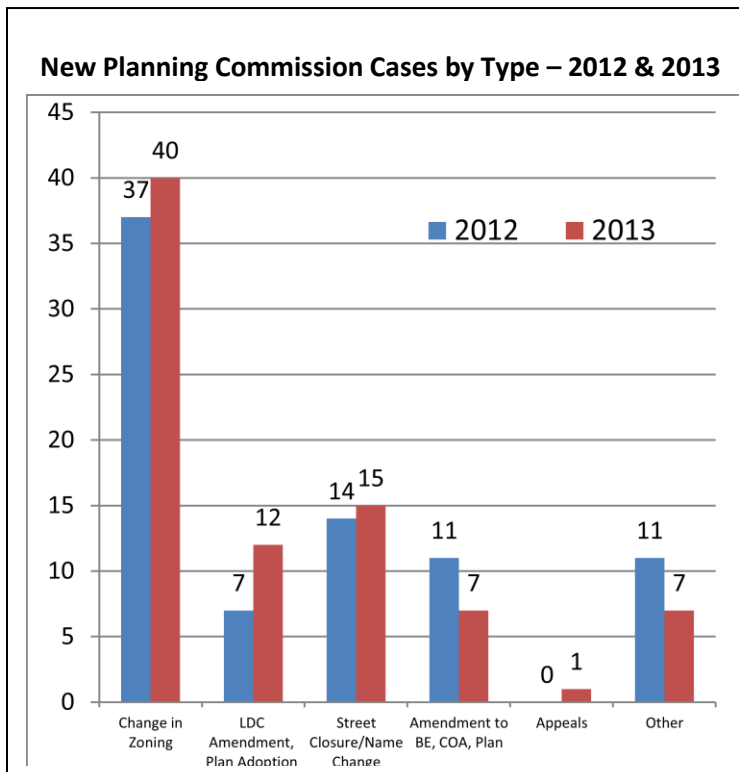
Robert Kirchdorfer, Chair  
Clifford Turner, Vice Chair  
Lula Howard  
Tawana Hughes  
Chuck Kavanaugh  
Barbara Kelly  
David Tomes  
Jeff Brown

#### Policies & Procedures Committee

Chip White, Chair  
Greg Scheer, Vice Chair  
Jon Baker  
Deborah Bilitski  
Vince Jarboe  
Steve Porter  
Glenn A. Price, Jr.  
David Proffitt  
Jeff Brown

## Workload – Planning Commission

- The Planning Commission conducted a total of 25 meetings in 2013 (compared to 26 meetings in 2012). This does not include committee meetings of any type. Twenty (20) of the meetings were regular public hearings, five (5) were special evening public hearings conducted at off-site locations.
- The Commission spent a total of 88 hours (compared to 67 hours in 2012) conducting these meetings, resulting in an average time per meeting of 3 hours 32 minutes (compared to 2 hours 35 minutes in 2012), an increase of almost one hour in meeting length. The longest meeting lasted 7 hours 9 minutes (April 4, 2013) and the shortest meeting was 15 minutes in length (November 21, 2013).
- A total of 92 cases (compared to 85 cases in 2012) were considered by the Planning Commission during 2013. Eighty-two (82) were new and ten (10) were repeat cases.



- Change in Zoning (CIZ) – Of the 40 CIZ new cases, Thirty-nine (39) were recommended for approval to legislative bodies by the Planning Commission, one was recommended for denial. Of these 40 cases, ten (10) were CIZ with development plans only; two (2) were area-wide rezoning cases; twenty-eight (28) involved other requests, including Preliminary Subdivision (4); Conditional Use Permit (6); Variance (23) and Waiver (56). Two of the CIZ cases were associated with a Change in Form District.

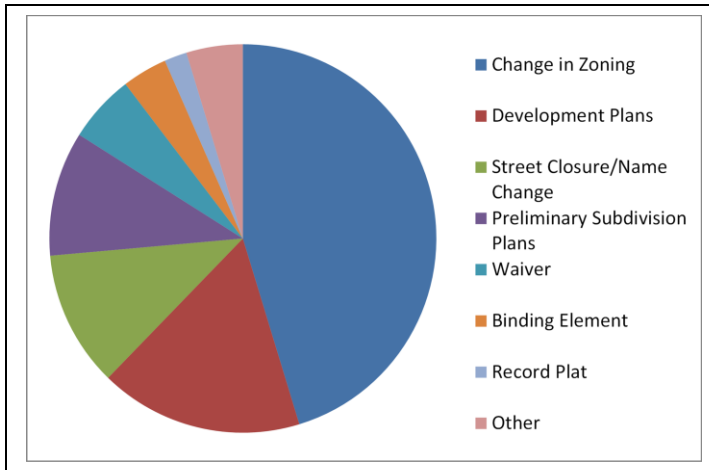
- Street Closure/Street Name Change cases increased from 14 in 2012 to 15 in 2013. There was one appeal case in 2013.

- Amendments to binding elements, condition of approval, waivers, subdivisions and development plans reviewed by the Planning Commission decreased from 11 to 7 cases in total numbers.

- Housing – A total of 1,467 new housing units/lots were approved in 2013 (compared to 2,077 in 2012 and 263 in 2011), by either the Planning Commission or the Land Development and Transportation Committee (LD&T). The Planning Commission approved 1,155 new housing units in 2013 (compared to 1,761 in 2012 and 207 in 2011), all but 25 were proposed apartment units. LD&T approved 312 new housing units/lots (compared to 316 in 2012) with 222 single-family lots and 90 apartment/multi-family units.

### **Workload – Land Development & Transportation Committee (LD&T)**

- A total of 21 LD&T meetings (compared to 19 meetings in 2012) were held in 2013. The average meeting time was 2 hours 2 minutes per meeting compared to 1 hour 31 minutes per meeting in 2012, an increase of 31 minutes per meeting.



- The Committee reviewed a total of 106 cases (69 in 2012). Of the 106 cases, 48 were change in zoning cases, including 2 area wide rezonings, 12 were street closures/name changes, 11 were preliminary subdivision plans, 18 were development plan cases, 4 were binding element amendments and there was 1 parking waiver. Associated with these cases, there were 17 variances and 80 waiver requests.
- Of the 106 new cases, 59 cases were sent to the full Planning Commission meetings for a public hearing, 36 were approved by the Committee, 3 were recommended to other municipalities for approval, and 1 case was denied by the Committee.

### **Workload – Development Review Committee (DRC)**

- DRC held 21 meetings in both 2013 and 2012. The average meeting time decreased slightly from 1 hour 44 minutes in 2012 to 1 hour 36 minutes per meeting in 2013.
- A total of 115 cases were heard by the Committee in 2013 (122 cases in 2012), 105 were new cases and 10 were old cases.
- Of the 105 new cases, 45 were single request cases, 60 cases had multiple requests. The combined requests reviewed by DRC were 211.

- The great majority of cases were approved or recommended for approval, two (2) cases were denied by DRC in 2013.
- Fifty-eight (58) of the 98 waivers were landscaping waivers.

### **Workload – Site Inspection Committee**

The Site Inspection Committee conducted 6 site visits (compared to 12 site visits in 2012 and 14 in 2011) and inspected 8 sites (compared to 32 sites in 2012 and 36 in 2011) on rezoning cases in 2013. The record of site inspections indicates that all site visits for the year 2013 occurred in the month of March.

### **Workload – Planning Committee**

The Planning Committee conducted six (6) meetings with an average meeting time of 1 hour 14 minutes. The Committee reviewed a total of eight (8) new cases (compared to 8 cases in 2012): two (2) cases on Land Development Code amendments, one (1) Corridor Study, two (2) Master Plans, one (1) Comprehensive Plan Update, one (1) Neighborhood Plans, and one (1) Core Graphic Update.

### **Workload – Policies and Procedures Committee**

The Policies and Procedures Committee held four meetings during 2013 with an average meeting time of 1 hour 41 minutes per meeting. The Committee addressed and updated night hearing processes and Community Facility Reviews.

### **Training Program/Courses Presented/Attended**

**January 16** – Zoning for Small-Scale Businesses” – APA sponsored audio/web conference

**February 13** – Fracking and Resource Extraction and Community Planning – APA sponsored Audio/Web Conference

**February 21** – Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control Ordinance (EPSC) Training for Planning Commissioners, presented by MSD

**April 11-13** – KY Walk Bike Summit (One PDS staff member attended)

**March 13** - Environmental Systems, Assessment, and Carrying Capacity Lecture, APA sponsored

lecture

**May 8-10** – 2013 APA-KY Spring Conference (Five PDS staff attended)

**May 15** – Rethinking the Role of the Urban Freeway Lecture, APA sponsored lecture

**June 5** - Pedestrian and Bicycle Planning, APA sponsored audio/web conference

**June 13** – From Vacant Spaces to Vibrant Places – webinar sponsored by The International Economic Development Council

**June 26** – 2013 Planning Law Review, APA sponsored audio/web conference

**September 25** - Transportation Modeling, APA sponsored lecture

**September 27** – 2013 APA-KY Fall Conference (Five PDS staff attended)

**September 30 – October 2** – 2013 Kentucky GIS Conference (One PDS staff member attended)

**October 9** - Planning Ethics and Law, APA sponsored audio/web conference

**October 10-15** – Director attended Big City Planning Directors Institute sponsored by the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, the Harvard Graduate School of Design and the APA.

**October 28 – November 1**- 2013 National Trust for Historic Preservation Conference (One PDS staff member attended)

**November 6** - Smart Growth in Small Towns and Rural Areas, APA sponsored audio/web conference

**December 4** -Fiscal Impact Analysis as a Decision Support Tool, APA sponsored lecture

## **Staffing**

Planning & Design Services experienced some staff changes in 2013 as listed below:

- Phillip Bills retired as Planning Director
- Emily Liu was promoted from Assistant Director to Planning Director
- Jessica Wethington, Public Information Specialist, replaced Connie Ewing, who retired
- Jessica Butler was promoted to Planner I, replacing Maria Scheitz, who resigned
- Tammy Markert was moved from Transportation Review to the Admin Team in Planning & Design
- Andrea Lauago was promoted to Associate Planner
- Joel Dock, Planning Technician, replaced Jessica Butler on the Planning Resources Team
- Spencer Heuke, Planning Technician, replaced Andrea Lauago on the Planning Resources Team

### **Notable Projects / Actions in 2013**

- Overall application activities at Planning and Design Services increased 12% from 2012 to 2013 with a total of 1,806 cases (Hansen cases).
- The Comprehensive Plan-Cornerstone 2020 was readopted with updated research, analysis, projections and core graphics.
- Round One of the Land Development Code Revisions was approved by Metro Council.
- Round Two of the Land Development Code Revisions continued in 2013 with 104 committee meetings conducted.
- Planning and Design Services' website was updated again in 2013 making it more user-friendly.
- Rezoning process was streamline at the beginning of 2013. This improved process was implemented to 42 other development review processes later in the year.
- Planning and Design Services published it first sets of user guides for rezoning and other major types of development cases.
- Two area-wide rezoning cases (Original Highland and Portland) were completed and approved.
- Scanning of the library case files began in December of 2013 and will continue for the next several years.